

PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTERDEMONSTRATION AGAINST WHITE SUPREMACISTS ANNOUNCED

In response to a recently announced demonstration by a white supremacist group, the People's Organization For Progress (POP) and other grassroots organizations will have a motorcade, march and rally against racism on Tuesday, July 4, 2000. The motorcade from Newark to Morristown will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will start at the Women In Support of the Million Man March headquarters, 53 Lincoln Park in Newark.

The march will begin 11:30 a.m., after the arrival of the motorcade, at Mt. Airy Place (near Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue) in Morristown. The "One People's Rally," which is being co-sponsored by the New Jersey Freedom Organization, will begin at 12:00 noon and will take place at or near the Morris County Courthouse.

"We call upon people of conscience to join us to demonstrate against racism, inequality, hatred, and injustice," POP chairman Lawrence Hamm said.

POP's anti-racist action was called in response to the march and rally planned by the Nationalist Movement, a Mississippi-based, white supremacist organization, which announced that it will have an "Independence From Affirmative Action Day" march and rally on July 4th.

The Nationalist Movement is having its event to call for the abolition of affirmative action and to protest the firing of Carl Williams, the former superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. Williams was fired for his racist remarks which justified the racial profiling practiced by the state police.

"On July 4th, we will march for racial justice and equality, in support of affirmative action, and against racial profiling," Hamm stated.

"Members of the Nationalist Movement have marched with the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan and groups like it have lynched and murdered African-Americans and been the enemies of black progress," he said.

"We believe it is necessary for opponents of racism to demonstrate against the white supremacists. Failure to take a visible and strong public stand against these groups emboldens them, and helps to create an atmosphere in which they can flourish," he stated.

"Violent white supremacists were involved in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma which left 168 people dead, many of whom were children. They have been involved in the bombing of black churches. In Texas, they dragged James Byrd to death and tore his body to pieces. We call upon those who are opposed to racist violence to demonstrate with us in Morristown," Hamm said.

The People's Organization For Progress supports affirmative action. "It is one of the gains of the civil rights era which attempts to address inequalities, particularly in employment and education, brought about by years of racial discrimination. We ask that everyone who supports affirmative action march with us," he said.

"The Nationalist Movement protests Williams firing, but during his tenure as superintendent of the state police years of racial profiling took place. We want everyone who is opposed to racial profiling to rally with us," Hamm said.

Mt. Airy Place was chosen as the starting point of the march because the home of the family of Stanton Crew is located on that street. Mr. Crew, a victim of police brutality, was killed on Route 80 a year ago after being fired upon 27 times by New Jersey state troopers and local police.

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